

Ruth Oriani . . .

Nationally-Acclaimed Torrance Heroine Puts Awards Up for Sale

Because of her broken health, Ruth Oriani, the most famous girl heroine in Torrance's history, is being forced to sell awards she received for saving the life of a two-year-old boy.

Decorated four times, often cited, and many times commended for her quick thinking and her bravery in rescuing little Larry Stansbury from an oil sump last September Ruth strolled into the Herald office yesterday—on more-or-less of a social call.

"Don't know anybody that wants to buy a wrist watch Kate Smith gave me, do you?" she asked with a decided note of embarrassment in her voice.

She showed us the watch—a beautiful platinum ladies watch studded with two diamonds.

"I don't really want to sell it but since I found out about my heart I can't work anymore and if I don't make a payment on the lot they are going to take away my horses."

She had been to a jeweler who appraised the watch at \$125 but the most he could offer her was \$25. She had been to a number of other places.

No one, it seems, needs a watch just how!

The girl who received the Navy League Medal, first girl in history to receive the award and the only civilian to be so honored in 30 years, does not want to sell the watch for any reason except . . .

That shortly after she rescued little Larry Stansbury from an oil sump at 174th and Normandie, she bought a lot next to her home at 1565 West 222th street, on which to board her two horses. She enjoyed and loved horses and rode them purely as a hobby—as sport.

The Torrance Kiwanis Club discovered this and gave her a saddle as their tribute to her courage.

Now she rides horses to stay alive!

"I was supposed to go to work for Mr. Dean Sears at the Bank of America on the eleventh," she relates. "I took my physical examination on the seventh and when I went back to find out if I passed it the doctor told me I couldn't work because he discovered I had a rheumatic heart. I didn't even

know it."

"I asked him about my horses. He said that if I didn't ride, well—gosh I don't know. He said the jarring was the best thing on account it kept the muscles around by the heart the way they should be."

"You see, I don't really want to sell the watch but what am I going to do? Dad can't support us all and buy a lot too. And if I don't have a place to keep my horses . . ."

Her father, Alfred Oriani, is a 30-year navy man who retired as a Chief Warrant Officer.

No one, it seems, needs a watch now-adays!

Though watches, horses, no work, and little money occupy her thoughts most of the time these days, there was a time when they did not. One of those times was when she heard the pitiful whine of a small boy who had fallen into an oil sump.

Because he was small, curious, and a boy, led Larry to the sump which nearly took his life.

With complete disregard for her own safety, alone in the

middle of a hot, dusty field, and hidden from the sight of others by tules and grass, young Ruth crawled out on a plank to the middle of the quagmire. Little Larry's mouth and nostrils were covered with the thick glue-like tar. He was suffocating to death.

The girl ripped the tar from the child's mouth and clamped her mouth to his and blew life-sustaining air into the baby's lungs.

Then the exhausting struggle to get him out of the tar which pulled at the child's body and only slowly, reluctantly let the girl claim the boy.

Help finally arrived but by this time Larry was crying—and safe.

"Thanks for coming," Ruth told firemen. "But I think he'll be all right now."

NO ONE, IT SEEMS, NEEDS A WATCH NOWADAYS!



NO TROUBLE . . . Gary Bennett, two-and-a-half year-old polio victim had to use little sales talk on Mrs. Darlene Wilson to sell her a ticket to the March of Dimes Dance February 25 which is sponsored by Torrance Firemen's Ass'n. The youngster lives with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bennett of 1609 Post avenue.

March of Dimes Benefit Dance Set by Firemen

With all proceeds scheduled to go to the March of Dimes, the Torrance Firemen's Assn. launched into a full scale all-out campaign this week to put their benefit dance "over the top" with advanced ticket sales.

Six dimes will buy a ticket to the affair to be staged Feb. 25 in the VFW Hall, according to Bob Lucas dance committee chairman. The local veterans organization has donated the use of the hall for the dance.

Tickets are on sale at the main Torrance fire station and at the station in Walteria.

FIREMEN AID DRIVE . . . Bob Lucas, heads dance committee for March of Dimes benefit.

POSTMASTER CANDIDATE AWAITS OFFICIAL WORD

Mrs. Margaret O'Toole, for the past seven years a rural route carrier, is waiting momentarily for confirmation from Postal authorities that her recommendation by Congressman Cecil E. King to succeed G. Earl Connor as temporary postmaster has been accepted.

Mrs. O'Toole, whose rural route takes her more than 30 miles daily, told the Herald yesterday that she has had two conversations with Congressman King, confirming his recommendation last Thursday.

The office of Torrance postmaster became vacant upon the death of G. Earl Connor, postmaster here for the past 15 years.

Mrs. O'Toole's husband, James J., is a disabled veteran of World War I. Two of her three sons, Robert, 22, and James, 20, served

during the recent war. The third Joseph, 16, is a junior at Torrance High School. Her father, Earl R. Hepburn, resides at 6559 Walnut Ave., Long Beach.

Born and raised in Denver, Colo., Mrs. O'Toole moved to this area 24 years ago. She is an active member in the National Letter Carrier's Assn., National Rural Carrier's Assn., Disabled American Veterans' Post Auxiliary No. 63 and American Legion Post Auxiliary No. 170.

\$25 CHECK COSTS \$50

On the complaint of a local merchant, Mildred Rodgers Burns 33, who gave her address as 1821 Carson street, was fined \$50 by City Judge Otto B. Willert last week for refusing to make good on a \$25 bogus check, according to the court records.

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TORRANCE STUDENT LOSES ARM IN FALL FROM FREIGHT CAR

Local Athlete Tumbles Under Moving Wheels

Fifteen-year-old Bill Gray, Torrance High school student and athlete, lost his left arm yesterday afternoon boarding a Santa Fe freight train about 500 yards west of the Crenshaw crossing.

Harbor General Hospital described the youth's condition as serious but said he will recover.

Witnesses to the accident stated that the high school football player and shotputter fell from the moving train as he tried to get aboard the box car.

The accident involving the tenth grade student, who lives at 2513 Carson street, occurred about 4:40 p. m. yesterday.

Jim Leach, 727 Border street, reported this mishap to the Torrance police.

Gray's arm was severed above the elbow by the train's wheels, police said.

Council Chamber Now Easier on Ears and Eyes

No more ear-strain in the Torrance City Council chamber trying to hear what the city fathers are discussing!

Also, it is more pleasing to the eye, as visitors have discovered. It was all done with a new ceiling treatment some new paint all the wayround.

Ever since it was opened, taxpayers have cupped their ears trying to hear what the councilmen were talking about. If you were sitting in the back row it was usually hopeless.

Last Friday a crew came out and did the ceiling practically in one day. And Monday the painters went to work on both walls and ceiling, leaving it a few tints lighter in color.

Yes sir, it even SMELLS newly-painted, too.

PUBLIC REST ROOMS IN CIVIC AUD ABOUT READY

Rest room facilities, long needed in the downtown section, will be opened to the public as soon as painting of the civic Auditorium is completed—probably next week, City Manager George Stevens said yesterday.

Workmen were putting final touches to remodeling on either side of the auditorium to provide outside access to the rest rooms which will remain open from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily.

Councilman Nick Drale, who sponsored the "bill" in the city council, said that the cost of the work would remain within the budget of \$700 allotted for the remodeling.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

BASEBALL TOURNEY CONTINUED

The newly formed City Recreation Commission agreed last night to continue the American Legion Baseball Tournament for another year, according to Bud Lee, chairman.

Following a lengthy discussion on the subject it was further agreed that any future contract for use of the city park where the tournament has been held for the past several years, would have to be on a year-to-year basis.

Honor Planned For Test Pilot

Navy divers, unsuccessful in their attempts to recover the body of Albert W. Conover Jr., test pilot killed in a secret Navy plane crash Feb. 4, were given the order to "see cube operations" last Friday.

Ben Haggott, developer of Seaside Ranchos where Conover lived with his wife and four small children, told the Herald this week that he was naming a street in honor of the 28 year old pilot in a future development of the new home area.

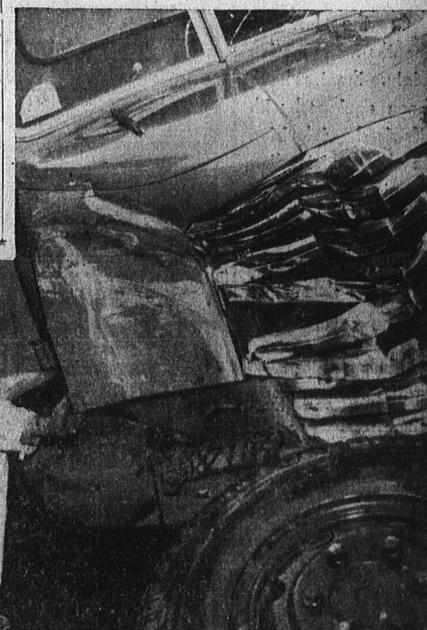
He said the request came from a number of residents who were neighbors of the Conovers. It was also suggested Haggott, said, that a tree be planted at the entrance to the Seaside Ranchos in memoriam to the pilot whose family lives at 5454 Sharynne Lane.

Conover and another pilot, Charles E. Brown, were killed two weeks ago when their highly secret navy plane crashed into the sea off El Segundo. The body of Brown and several large sections of the ill-fated North American XAJ were recovered by divers. The body of Conover was not found.

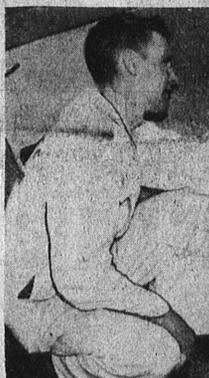
Memorial services for Conover were conducted last Thursday in Redondo Beach. During the services a message was flashed ashore that the bodies had been recovered but later it developed that only the body of Brown had been found.

North American officials stated the Navy was attempting to establish the cause of the crash by reconstructing parts of the recovered engine-jet bomber.

Torrance Truck In Death Crash



AMBULANCE CRASH . . . Driver of this truck belonging to the Torrance Van and Storage Company narrowly escaped death in crash with ambulance that took the lives of three others.



AMBULANCE CRASH . . . Driver of this truck belonging to the Torrance Van and Storage Company narrowly escaped death in crash with ambulance that took the lives of three others.

William August Uhlig, 47, of 16711 1/2 South Figueroa, a truck driver for the Torrance Van and Storage Company, was released from the hospital Monday following a crash in which three people riding in an ambulance were killed last Friday. The emergency vehicle and the moving van collided at Imperial Highway and Crenshaw boulevard.

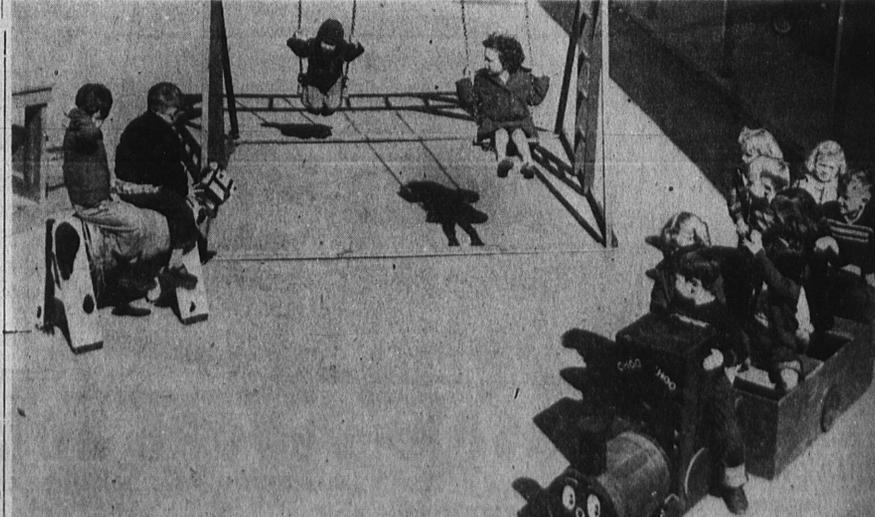
According to witnesses' accounts to the police, Uhlig had

John L. Ricks, Jr., 22, of 2048 West 75th street. Herbert Walters, 52, of 2036 West 75th street.

Force of the impact of the collision carried the vehicles 80 feet and pinned Uhlig in the truck. The ambulance is said to have rolled over twice before coming to rest against a power pole.

The driver for the local moving firm at 1916 Border avenue, escaped with a cracked shoulder blade and shock, Miller said.

Dead are: Mrs. Mayme Craham, of 139 West 131st, Hawthorne.



FACE EVICTION . . . Children enjoy 'bucking bronco,' 'choo-choo,' and swings at the Torrance Nursery School. Parents of children took action this week to have state continue the center for another year.

(See story Page Three)